

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-05 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 301

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, YU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER MLADEV TO VISIT BELGRADE

1. YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR TRAIKOVSKY HAS INFORMED US BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADEV WILL VISIT BELGRADE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS IN MID-NOVEMBER. THE VISIT, BILLED AS IN RETURN FOR YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC'S TRIP TO SOFIA IN LATE 1973, WAS PROPOSED BY THE BULGARIAN SIDE AT HELSINKI, AND AGREED TO DURING TITO'S CONVERSATION THERE WITH ZHIVKOV.

2. TRAIKOVSKY SAID HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT EXPECT VERY MUCH FROM THE VISIT. HE DESCRIBES THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS AS NEITHER WARM NOR FROSTY, AND DOUBTS ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN WHILE MLADEV IS IN BELGRADE TO CHANGE THAT ASSESSMENT. MAJOR BILATERAL IRRITANTS REMAIN, IN BELGRADE'S VIEW, MACEDONIA AND CLAIMS OF BULGARIAN

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AND SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN THE LIBERATION OF YUGOSLAVIA

IN WWII, ALONG WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-TITO YUGOSLAVS RESIDENT IN BULGARIA; THE BULGARIANS WOULD LIKE BELGRADE TO BE LESS ACCOMMODATING TO THEIR NATIONALS WHO DEFECT THROUGH YUGOSLAV TERRITORY. BEHIND THESE, OF COURSE, LOOM A NUMBER OF SERIOUS DIFFERENCES ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

3. THE BULGARIANS HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE OVER THE PAST YEAR IN TOUCHING UP RELATIONS WITH THEIR BALKAN NEIGHBORS. ZHIVKOV ENTERTAINED CARAMANLIS HERE IN JULY, VISITED ROMANIA IN FEBRUARY AND AGAIN IN JULY, AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH DEMIREL AT EDIRNE (ALSO JULY), WHILE MLADENOV RECENTLY COMPLETED AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY. THE MLADENOV VISIT TO BELGRADE THUS CLOSES THE CIRCLE OF VISITS TO ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

4. THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE, IN GENERAL, A TIME FOR CONSIDERABLE BULGARIAN TRAVEL: ZHIVKOV IS TO LEAVE OCTOBER 13 FOR A SWING THROUGH THE MAHGREB WHICH WILL TAKE HIM TO TUNISIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA (AT ONE TIME THERE WAS ALSO TALK OF A SIDE TRIP TO VISIT QADAFFI IN LIBYA, BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THAT RECENTLY), AND IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A STATE VISIT TO THE FRG NOVEMBER 24-28.

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